

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. For purposes of expedition, claims 1-19 have been amended in several particulars for purposes of clarity and brevity in accordance with current Office policy, to further and alternatively define Applicants' disclosed invention and to assist the Examiner to expedite compact prosecution of the instant application.

Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as containing non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that, because paragraph 0059 of Applicants' specification describes that "a computer readable medium includes carrier wave", claim 15 directed to a computer readable medium somehow contains non-statutory subject matter. While the Examiner's imputed reading of Applicants' specification into claim 15 is improper, Applicants' specification has been amended to remove reference to "carrier wave". Moreover, claim 15 has been amended to overcome the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Park et al., EP 1 014 370 for reasons stated on pages 2-6 of the Office Action. While Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assessment of Park '370, noting that Park '370 is one of the current inventor's earlier work product (also assigned to the same assignee), claims 1-19 have been amended to clearly define distinguishing features of Applicants' disclosed invention over Park '370.

For example, Park '370 (Samsung's earlier work product) discloses a method and playback apparatus for seamless reproduction of data streams, by way of seamless time control information which includes (1) reference time, (2) an offset value and/or (3) a gap length value. Nevertheless, in Park '370, such seamless time control information is recorded in advance as part of a data stream following stream object information (SOB), as shown in FIG. 7. As a result, data streams can always be seamlessly reproduced without interruption between the data streams, and seamless playback can always be guaranteed.

However, if the seamless time control information is recorded in advance as part of a data stream, as shown in FIG. 7, then there is **no** need to determine if successive data streams contain data packets with arrival time stamps (ATSS) that are unrelated to each other. A playback apparatus can always read the seamless time control information from the data streams and ensure seamless reproduction of these data streams.

Nevertheless, this approach requires recording in advance the seamless time control information as part of a data stream. Advance recording of the seamless time control information, in turn, requires an extra cost (as well as extra space on a storage medium) associated therewith.

In contrast to Park '370 (Samsung's earlier work product), base claims 1, 8 and 16, as amended, do not require advanced recording of the seamless time control information. Rather, Applicants' base claims 1, 8 and 16 (as amended) require determining if successive data streams for seamless reproduction include data packets with arrival time stamps (ATSs) that are unrelated with each other first, and then calculating time control information, i.e., reference time value for adjusting an arrival time stamp (ATS) of a first data packet of a next data stream so as to allow the next data stream to be reproduced immediately after reproduction of the current data stream without a pause.

In view of these distinctions, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments, arguments and remarks, all claims are deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at the Washington DC office at (202) 216-9505 ext. 232.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

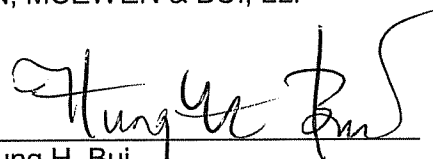
Respectfully submitted,

STEIN, MCEWEN & BUI, LLP

Date:

3/25/08

By:


Hung H. Bui
Registration No. 40,415

1400 Eye St., NW
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 216-9505
Facsimile: (202) 216-9510